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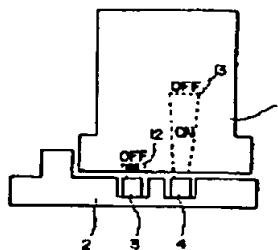
Patent Abstracts of Japan

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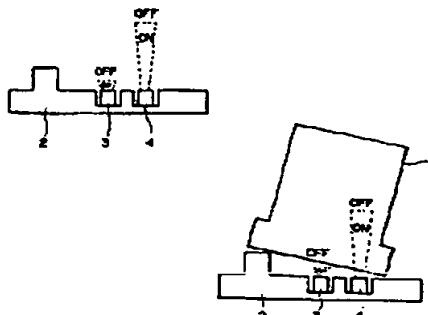
APPLICANT : CANON INC;



INVENTOR : NAKAMURA AKIHIRO;

INT.CL. : H01L 21/68

TITLE : WAFER CASSETTE DETECTION DEVICE



ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To make it possible to eliminate error detection of the presence of a wafer cassette by installing a sensor means which detects if said wafer cassette is placed in a specified position with accuracy based on one detection standard and checks for the present of the wafer cassette based on another detection standard.

CONSTITUTION: The detection area 12 of a sensor is smaller than the detection area of a sensor 4. Therefore, the sensor 3 will be turned off if a wafer cassette 1 is slightly deviated or lifted up while the sensor 4 will be turned off only when the wafer cassette 1 completely disappears. When the wafer cassette 1 is deviated from a right position or vibrated or lifted up, the sensor 4 will keep its ON state in either case. Therefore, when the wafer cassette 1 is not found on a cassette mount nearby, both the sensors 3 and 4 are turned off, which makes it possible to determine that the wafer cassette 1 is not on the cassette mount 2. When the wafer cassette 1 is placed on the cassette mount 2, but deviated from the right position, the sensor 3 is OFF while the sensor 4 is ON. This construction makes it possible to determine that the wafer cassette 1 is present but deviated from the right position.

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